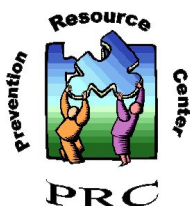




VISTA Insider

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Welcome January Members



Governor Steve Bullock, Abby Zent, Christine Armstrong, Jeff Rome, Kari Groat, Nicole Johnson, Tania Young, Stephanie Bleyendaal (back), Miranda Severns, Nicole Gottschall, Lieutenant Governor John Walsh

Leader Notes and Sequestration

Tomorrow marks the first day of spring! For some of you this marks having 4 months left of service. When I was in my first year of service this was the time when I was most successful. So, keep up the hard work! We're impressed by the capacity building you're all doing for the benefit of this state.

The PRC is currently unaware how sequestration will impact our VISTA program in the coming year. We are operating under fiscal year 2012 funds for the next year, which may or may not be cut as a part of sequestration. We will keep you updated as we get more information.

VISTA Profile

Name: Deneen Pancari

Where are you from?

Where are you serving?

Born in Pittsburgh, PA
grew up in a very small town called Avella, PA to serving in Bozeman

Do you have any pets?

My neighbors have a white lab named Moon and I love him. I have a Betta named Phish.

What's your favorite word or phrase? (or something you say too much) YINZ = the Pittsburgh slang for: you all, you ones, ya'll, etc.

What is your favorite book from childhood?

Alice in Wonderland

Name your favorite flavor of ice cream: Ben

and Jerry's Phish Food

What's in the trunk of your car? A raft, camping chairs, oil, yoga mat, and water

The last movie you saw:

The Last Waltz

Most beloved season: Fall

What has surprised you about being a VISTA?

How many non-profits could benefit from having a Vista on staff.

What's the best thing about being a VISTA in your community? Getting to participate/volunteer in Bozeman at community events and seeing all of the local patrons come together to support/donate to the cause/event.



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APRIL 15TH!**

Fun Facts from the PRC Workplan

- Cash generated:: over \$54,000
- In-kind donations raised: over \$69,000
- Community assessments

- completed: 12
- Individuals mentored: 481
- Volunteers recruited: 119

- Disadvantaged youth who served as volunteers: 63
- Number of disadvantaged youth served: 41,840

Reminder: You get 10 personal days and 10 sick days during your year of service.

If you've been featured in the news we want to know! Send links, articles, videos, &etc. to ngottschall@mt.gov!

VISTA Profile

Name: Miranda Severns

Where are you from?

Where are you serving? I'm from Tacoma, WA. Serving in Helena, MT

Do you have any pets? Back home I have 4 cats, all living with different friends and family. Their names are Ember, Swishy, General Washington, and Elspeth.

What's your favorite word or phrase? "On a real note." or "That's cray-cray."

What is your favorite book from childhood? I Can't Decide: I'd have to choose between the Harry Potter, Chronicles of Narnia, or the Protector of the Small series.

Name your favorite flavor of ice cream: Buttered Pecan

What's in the trunk of your car? Beach towel, zebra print snuggie, bottled water, rope (???), saltine crackers, and a bag of sand lest my car gets stuck in the snow.

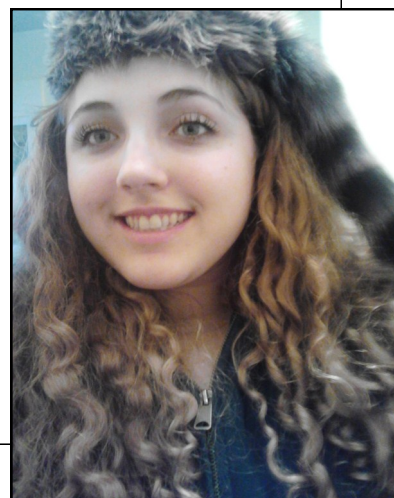
The last movie you saw: Django Unchained

Most beloved season: Autumn

What has surprised you about being a VISTA? Definitely the amount of support I've received, not just from AmeriCorps, but from PRC, the GEAR UP Staff, other VISTA's and the community. I thought it was going to be

much more difficult coming to a new state on my own.

What's the best thing about being a VISTA in your community? There are a lot of really great things about being a Vista for GEAR UP, but to put it simply I think that it's amazing to work with a great staff with the goal of creating a brighter future for High School students that face adversity.



VISTA Profile

Name: Jeff Rome

Where are you from?

Where are you serving?

I'm from rocky Prescott, AZ and am serving in windy Livingston, MT

Do you have any pets?

Nope, unless you count stuffed animals; then I have a dog named Oso.

What's your favorite word or phrase? (or something you say too much) I'm really starting to like the word bushwa.

What is your favorite book from childhood?

Lord of the Rings (didn't read it until 7th grade, but I feel that's still childhood)

Name your favorite flavor of ice cream: Ben & Jerry's American Apple Pie

What's in the trunk of your car? A big blue tarp and some climbing strength webbing

The last movie you saw: Zero Dark Thirty

Most beloved season: Fall

What has surprised you about being a VISTA? I didn't expect so many meetings and webinars.

What's the best thing about being a VISTA in your community? Livingston's small. I see people I know (or am getting to know) everywhere.



**QPR'S ARE DUE
APRIL 15TH!**



Jessi Sheava, Leah Ettman, and Tania Young at the Montana Elementary and Middle School Principles Conference

8 Qualities of Remarkable Employees

Written by Jeff Haden

Great employees are reliable, dependable, proactive, diligent, great leaders and great followers... they possess a wide range of easily-defined—but hard to find—qualities.

A few hit the next level. Some employees are remarkable, possessing qualities that may not appear on performance appraisals but nonetheless make a major impact on performance.

Here are eight qualities of remarkable employees:

1. They ignore job descriptions. The smaller the company, the more important it is that employees can think on their feet, adapt quickly to shifting priorities, and do whatever it takes, regardless of role or position, to get things done.

When a key customer's project is in jeopardy, remarkable employees know without being told there's a problem and jump in without being asked—even if it's not their job.

2. They're eccentric... The best employees are often a little different: quirky, sometimes irreverent, even delighted to be unusual. They seem slightly odd, but in a really good way. Unusual personalities shake things up, make work more fun, and transform a plain-vanilla group into a team with flair and flavor.

People who aren't afraid to be different naturally stretch boundaries and challenge the status quo, and they often come up with the best

ideas.

3. But they know when to dial it back. An unusual personality is a lot of fun... until it isn't. When a major challenge pops up or a situation gets stressful, the best employees stop expressing their individuality and fit seamlessly into the team.

Remarkable employees know when to play and when to be serious; when to be irreverent and when to conform; and when to challenge and when to back off. It's a tough balance to strike, but a rare few can walk that fine line with ease.

4. They publicly praise... Praise from a boss feels good. Praise from a peer feels awesome, especially when you look up to that person.

Remarkable employees recognize the contributions of others, especially in group settings where the impact of their words is even greater.

5. And they privately complain. We all want employees to bring issues forward, but some problems are better handled in private. Great employees often get more latitude to bring up controversial subjects in a group setting because their performance allows greater freedom.

Remarkable employees come to you before or after a meeting to discuss a sensitive issue, knowing that bringing it up in a group setting could set off a firestorm.

6. They speak when others won't. Some employees are hesitant to speak up in meetings. Some are even hesitant to speak up privately.

An employee once asked me a question about potential layoffs. After the meeting I said to him, "Why did you ask about that? You already know what's going on." He said, "I do, but a lot of other people don't, and they're afraid to ask. I thought it would help if they heard the answer from you."

Remarkable employees have an innate feel for the issues and concerns of those around them, and step up to ask questions or raise important issues when others hesitate.

7. They like to prove others wrong. Self-motivation often springs from a desire to show that doubters are wrong. The kid without a college degree or the woman who was told she didn't have leadership potential often possess a burning desire to prove other people wrong.

Education, intelligence, talent, and skill are important, but drive is critical. Remarkable employees are driven by something deeper and more personal than just the desire to do a good job.

8. They're always fiddling. Some people are rarely satisfied (I mean that in a good way) and are constantly tinkering with something: Reworking a timeline, adjusting a process, tweaking a workflow.

Great employees follow processes. Remarkable employees find ways to make those processes even better, not only because they are expected to... but because they just can't help it.

Article found at Inc.com

VISTA Profile

Name: Kari Groat

Where are you from?

Where are you serving? I am from Vancouver, Washington - serving in Billings, Montana

Do you have any pets? I have a tabby cat back at home. His name is Mowgly.

What's your favorite word or phrase? (or something you say too much) "I get you."

What is your favorite book from childhood?

The Giving Tree by Silverstein

Name your favorite flavor of ice cream:

Vanilla Bean

What's in the trunk of your car?

Fluids, chains, and a roadside assistance kit. (Thanks Dad)

The last movie you saw:

The Switch with Jennifer Aniston and Jason Bateman

Most beloved season:

Spring in the Pacific Northwest!

What has surprised you about being a VISTA?

How many great people I have already met.

What's the best thing about being a VISTA in your community?

All the opportunities for involvement and leadership.



Recipes Under \$10— Wonton Wrapper Mozzarella Sticks

Ingredients:

8 mozzarella sticks

8 wonton wrappers

Oil, for frying

Directions:

1. Place a wonton wrapper on the counter in a diamond shape
2. Place string cheese at the bottom of the diamond
3. Roll up, tucking in the left and right sides of the wonton wrappers

4. Make sure that there are no rips or tears in the wonton wrapper

5. Secure the edges of the wonton wrappers with a bit of water

6. Heat oil in a frying pan over medium-high heat

7. Use just enough oil to cover the bottom of the pan

8. No need submerge the mozzarella sticks.

9. Fry on one side until golden brown

10. Turn over to brown the other side

11. Remove from pan and place on a plate covered with paper towels to drain excess oil

12. Serve with your choice of dipping sauce

homemade mozzarella sticks



AmeriCorps Pledge

I will get things done for America -
To make our people safer, smarter , and healthier.
I will bring Americans together to strengthen our
communities.
Faced with apathy, I will take action.
Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.
Faced with adversity, I will persevere.
I will carry this commitment with me this year and
beyond.



VISTA
Volunteers In Service To America



“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the
seeds that you plant”
-Robert Louis Stevenson

Upcoming Birthdays!

Miranda Severns– March 20

Amelia Kelly– April 24

Jessi Sheava– May 14

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